

FULTON LEWIS, JR., COMMENTS ON CIA

Fulton Lewis, Jr., at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Lewis discussed the news of the theft of documents from the Army Signal Corps Laboratory at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. He then said in part:

"A very fair question seems to arise out of this: Just where has the CIA, the CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, been while all this was going on? They have had access to the testimony of this German scientist. They've had it for a year. He gave the information nearly a year ago. Why have they not dug into the sack and ferreted out this spy ring? If Senator McCarthy could do it, they certainly should have been able to do so -- except that they are not able to do so.

"Here's another example of Bedell Smith's handiwork -- the CIA -- he was there before he went in as Under-Secretary of State -- it came out in the reorganization that has never been done in the State Department to this day.

"And it's entirely possible that this whole case may fester itself into a general and complete investigation of the CIA, which has long been indicated -- in fact, indicated from the very beginning, because it has achieved for itself, in the few years of its existence, the reputation of being a strictly vagrant, totally ineffective agency, manned by pink-tea artists and distinguished chiefly by the fact that it provides a means, without leaving any finger prints, of sending the socialite sons and daughters of the right people, or those who know the right people, on extended junkets abroad all over the world on utterly capricious pretexts, at the expense of the taxpayer, of course.

"And in this case the racket has its own self-perpetuating protection, because the moment anyone begins to look into the CIA, they reply that this is all too hush-hush to be displayed to public view. This is one that really needs fumigating and some strong light of day poured on it, and the sooner the better."